

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By
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Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M.
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President Eisenhower is at Camp David, in the nearby Catoctin Mountains of Maryland tonight, beginning a large house party of friends which will last through Saturday. A partial guest list was announced; most of the guests were one hand when the President arrived. The farm house at Gettysburg with its facilities was unable to take care of all the guests, and that is the reason the locale was moved to larger Camp David.

The President flew there by helicopter today, landing in a small flat clearing near the main camp building, while Mrs. Eisenhower, a little more squeemish in her travel tastes, drove up by automobile.

A somewhat unusual affair this house party, a presidential house party. I don't believe that I ever recall having heard of one before, at least certainly not on this large a pattern. Whether it has some purpose, or special meaning, significance, I don't know. It could be this is the annual White House splash to launch the Crusade for Freedom to raise money for Radio Free Europe, although that usually is in the form of a White House stag luncheon.

Incidentally, while I was in Munich recently, I spent some hours inspecting the operation of Radio Free Europe there, and I shall have some additional detailed reports for you on what I found in the very near future.

There is another annual junket from the United States coming up in the next few weeks in which some 60 prominent men and women who are prospective fund-raising front figures and state chairmen, over the nation, are given a free trip to Munich, to Berlin and Paris, and then back home by chartered Pan-American Airways plane, complete with much entertainment, wining and dining, and side trips.

I reported to you some months ago about these annual junkets and the details of the junkets. On that occasion, the Crusade for Freedom, which is the fund-raising organization

for Radio Free Europe, and puts on these junkets, issued the following statement by way of a denial of what I had reported to you. The statement said, "no part of the Crusade for Freedom collections go toward the Munich trip," all underscored, "contributions of the Crusade, to the penny," also underscored, "are turned over to the Free Europe Committee. The cost of the trip is figured into the annual budget of the Crusade for Freedom, paid by private sources."

That in itself is rather confusing, but it may interest you to know, regardless of the double talk, and, in spite of that statement, that the Crusade for Freedom chartered two, not just one, trans-Atlantic airliners last year for the junket, at a cost of \$28,055. And the records show that the bill was paid in full by the Crusade for Freedom; the check being signed by a John M. Poulter, or Polten. It is difficult to decipher whether the last letter is an "n" or an "r."

The persons who go along on these junkets are shown the operations of the Radio Free Europe set-up in Munich, just as I was shown them, and they come back home very much impressed and thoroughly brain-washed to tell about what a wonderful operation it is. As a matter of fact, from what they as laymen see in Munich, there is no possible way in the world for them to tell whether it is a wonderful operation or not, because they don't know what they have seen and they have no way to evaluate what they have seen. They are shown some radio studios, some news rooms, some news library facilities, and some tape-recording machines taking down broadcasts from iron curtain station transmitters, and all of this is very impresssive to someone who has never seen it before. But it is very impressive and interesting to the laymen to go through any radio station or a newspaper plant for the first time anyway.

To one who has spent 35 years in the business, there is nothing new or wonderful about any of it. In fact, it is pretty much of an amateurish operation, ridiculously over-staffed by people who for the most part would never be tolerated in a successful commercial operation. It is about reminiscent, except for equipment, of a college campus newspaper operated with an unlimited expense account and used as a laboratory for the School of Journalism. And, in anticipation of the new sucker lot that the Crusade is going to ferry across for this year's junket, there is, if you please, a brand new special public relations man, who was sent over just before I was there, to help with the brain-washing.